



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

AUG 15 2019

Via Email: 63613-13377937@requests.muckrock.com

Mr. Jasper Craven
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 63613
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Craven:

This letter is pertaining to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), dated November 6, 2018, in which you requested:

"All e-mail correspondence between Bill First, former U.S. Senator, and Darin Selnick, David Shulkin, as well as members of current VA senior leadership (detailed here: <https://www.va.gov/opa/bios/>) between May 1, 2017 and present day. Key words include: "issues," "AECOM," "partnership," infrastructure," "palliative," "IT," "help" and "Valor."

On December 14, 2018, the FOIA Service acknowledged receipt of your request and assigned it multiple FOIA tracking numbers and referred your request to multiple VA offices. This response is on behalf of the Office of Information and Technology (OI&T - **19-02521-F**).

We regret the delay you have experienced in receiving a VA response to your FOIA request. The delay is due to a shortage of FOIA staff coupled with a significant FOIA backlog.

The FOIA Service contacted the OI&T, IT Operations & Services (ITOPS) to conduct an email search between Bill Frist, former U.S. Senator, and OI&T, Executive in Charge, Camilo Sandoval, using the search terms above. However, that search returned a negative result. There were no online or archive data for the specified criteria. Therefore, we are providing you a no records response.

If you do not agree with this "no records" response, you have the right to appeal within 90 days of the date of this communication. You may appeal to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
General Counsel (024)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

You may also submit your appeal via facsimile to (202) 273-6388 or via email to ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov.

Please include a copy of your request and this letter with your appeal, and clearly state why you disagree with this determination. If you mail your appeal, both the front of the envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

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As an alternative to submitting an appeal, you may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison, which was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. Using the VA FOIA Public Liaison does not affect your right to appeal.

You may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison at:

Department of Veterans Affairs
VA FOIA Public Liaison (005R1C)
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
Email: vacofoiaservice@va.gov
Telephone: (877) 750-3642
Facsimile: (202) 632-7581

In addition, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests and agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation and, at the discretion of the Office, may issue advisory opinions if mediation has not resolved the dispute.

You may contact OGIS at:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Toll free: 1-877-684-6448
Facsimile: (202) 741-5769
Telephone: (202) 741-5770

This concludes the FOIA Service's response to your request.

We appreciate your interest in the VA. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Ms. Diane Cooke of my staff at 202-632-7419.

Sincerely,



Ms. Doloras Johnson
Director, VACO FOIA Service
Quality, Performance, and Risk (QPR)
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)